

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 26401 121038Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----086938 121044Z /16

O 121023Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0838
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 26401

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, TH
SUBJ: TRAVEL OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON

REF: STATE 229152

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, MFA AMERICAN DIVISION CHIEF SOMPHONG INFORMED US SEPTEMBER 12 THAT RTG RECEIVED MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 11 THROUGH ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON FROM COL. BRENNAN, FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON'S AIDE, THAT THE FORMER PRESIDENT HAD POSTPONED HIS TRAVEL PLANS. MESSAGE SAID THAT "DUE TO SOME INCONVENIENCE, THE FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON WILL SUSPEND HIS VISIT, INCLUDING TO THAILAND, UNTIL SOME TIME NEXT FALL." MFA INTERPRETED THE MESSAGE TO MEAN THAT THE ENTIRE TRIP HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL THE FALL OF 1979.

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2. THE MESSAGE SEEMED A LITTLE GARBLED, BUT THE POSTPONEMENT SEEMS CLEAR. HOWEVER, THE NEW TIMING MAY BE INACCURATE.

3. NATION REVIEW RAN STORY SEPTEMBER 12 QUOTING THAI MFA SOURCES REPORTING THAT THE VISIT HAD BEEN CANCELLED. A BRIEF STORY A FEW DAYS EARLIER INDICATED THAT THE

FORMER PRESIDENT MIGHT VISIT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES,
INCLUDING THAILAND. ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS HAS ALSO
CARRIED SEVERAL STORIES CONCERNING ADVERSE REACTION IN
AUSTRALIA TO A POSSIBLE NIXON VISIT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERY, EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID
THAT THE EMBASSY HAD NO OFFICIAL KNOWLEDGE OF NIXON'S
PLANNED VISIT TO THAILAND. ABRAMOWITZ

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